

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 3, 9, and 15. Please add new claims 19-22. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1-2. (Cancelled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) A computer system, said computer system comprising:
2 a bus;
3 a central processing unit;
4 memory, said memory being connected to said central processing unit via said bus; and
5 a password validation mechanism for verifying a single common password string for
6 accessing a plurality of password-protected resources, each said password-protected resource
7 having a single corresponding set of validity requirements of a plurality of sets of validity
8 requirements, each said set of validity requirements independently defining requirements of a
9 valid password string for accessing the corresponding password-protected resource, said password
10 protection mechanism verifying simultaneous compliance of a single common password string
11 with each said set of validity requirements of said plurality of sets of validity requirements, said
12 plurality of sets of validity requirements including a first set of validity requirements for a
13 password string for accessing a first password-protected resource and a second set of validity
14 requirements for a password string for accessing a second password-protected resource different
15 from said first password-protected resource, said first set of validity requirements being different
16 from said second set of validity requirements, said password validation mechanism providing
17 simultaneous feedback to a user regarding validity of a said single common password string
18 against each said set of said plurality of sets of validity requirements ~~of more than one password-~~
19 ~~protected resource.~~

4-8. (Cancelled)

Docket No.: ROC920000181US1
Serial No.: 09/838,619

1 9. (Currently Amended) A program product, said program product comprising:
2 a memory;
3 a program product disposed on said memory, said program product being a password
4 validation mechanism for verifying a single common password string for accessing a plurality of
5 password-protected resources, each said password-protected resource having a single
6 corresponding set of validity requirements of a plurality of sets of validity requirements, each said
7 set of validity requirements independently defining requirements of a valid password string for
8 accessing the corresponding password-protected resource, said password protection mechanism
9 verifying simultaneous compliance of a single common password string with each said set of
10 validity requirements of said plurality of sets of validity requirements, said plurality of sets of
11 validity requirements including a first set of validity requirements for a password string for
12 accessing a first password-protected resource and a second set of validity requirements for a
13 password string for accessing a second password-protected resource different from said first
14 password-protected resource, said first set of validity requirements being different from said
15 second set of validity requirements, said password validation mechanism providing simultaneous
16 feedback to a user regarding validity of a said single common password string against each said
17 set of said plurality of sets of validity requirements of more than one password-protected resource.

1 10. (Original) The program product of claim 9 wherein said password validation mechanism
2 simultaneously provides feedback for each of said more than one resource.

1 11. (Original) The program product of claim 9 wherein said password validation mechanism
2 simultaneously provides feedback for each resource using more than one visual cue.

12. (Original) The program product of claim 11 wherein said more than one visual cue is selected from the group consisting of icon presentation, message presentation, and character highlighting.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for providing feedback to a user, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a common password string for use in accessing a plurality of password protected resources from said user;

checking whether said common password string simultaneously conforms ~~with~~ to each set of validity requirements of a plurality of sets of validity requirements, each said set of validity requirements defining requirements of a valid password for more than one accessing a respective corresponding password-protected resource of said plurality of password-protected resources, said plurality of sets of validity requirements including a first set of validity requirements for a password for accessing a first password-protected resource and a second set of validity requirements for a password for accessing a second password-protected resource different from said first password-protected resource, said first set of validity requirements being different from said second set of validity requirements; and

presenting said user with feedback regarding each said respective set of validity requirements for each of said more than one password-protected resource.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said presenting step involves simultaneously providing feedback for each of said more than one resource.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said presenting step involves simultaneously providing feedback for each resource using more than one visual cue.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said more than one visual cue is selected from
2 the group consisting of icon presentation, message presentation, and character highlighting.

1 19. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein said presenting step involves simultaneously
2 providing feedback for each resource using a respective different at least one visual cue
3 corresponding to each said resource.

1 20. (New) The computer system of claim 3, wherein said password validation mechanism
2 provides simultaneous feedback to a user regarding validity of a said single password string
3 against said plurality of sets of validity requirements by providing a respective different at least
4 one visual cue corresponding to each said set of validity requirements.

1 21. (New) The computer system of claim 3, wherein:
2 there exists at least one password string satisfying said first set of validity requirements
3 which does not satisfy said second set of validity requirements; and
4 there exists at least on password string satisfying said second set of validity requirements
5 which does not satisfy said first set of validity requirements.

1 22. (New) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said password validation
2 mechanism simultaneously provides feedback for each resource using a respective different at
3 least one visual cue corresponding to each said resource.